USSR support to Pakistan on Nuclear Free Zone issue

*150. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether USSR sided with Pakistan on the letter's proposal on the South-Asian Nuclear Free Zone issue as manifested by its vote favouring it on the 11th November, 1991 in the Political and Security Committee of the United Nations General Assembly;

(b) whether Government of India has expressed its concern to the Soviet Government over its decision to vote for the proposal on which it had abstained in the past;

(c) if so, what is the Soviet reaction thereto;

(d) whether during his recent visit to Moscow he made an assessment of the Soviet policy changes contemplated by it; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) what is the extent to which this resolution will benefit Pakistan to get military and economic aid from America which was suspended in October last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) This year, the USSR changed its vote from abstention to positive on a resolution on South Asia as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, sponsored by Pakistan.

(b) to (d) During his visit to the USSR recently, External Affairs Minister expressed disappointment that the USSR chose to change its traditional position on the proposal. The Soviet leaders attributed the change to their new disarmament priorities and stated that it had no bearing on Soviet friendship with India.

(e) The Resolution is not likely to have any effect on US-Pak relations.

Multi-crore modernisation programme for International Airports

*151. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that International Airports Authority of India has drawn up a multi-crore modernisation programme for the five International Airports in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the programme and by when the proposed work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As a part of the Eighth Plan exercise, International Airports Authority of India has drawn up a list of project proposals, envisaging among other things, construction of New Passenger and Cargo Terminals with facilities such as conveyor belts, lifts and escalators, flight information display system, furniture, trolleys, baggage and cargo handling systems, security equipment etc. Since the size of the Eighth Plan has not been finalised, it is too early to furnish further details and timeframe for completion of the works.

Construction of a modern abattoir to combat bird menace at Hyderabad Airport

*152. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be please to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have released sufficient grant to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for construction of modern abattoir to combat bird menace at Hyderabad airport; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Out of the Central share of Rs. 550 lakhs, Ministry of Agriculture has re-

leased Rs. 52 lakhs. Air India, Indian Airlines and National Airports Authority has been asked to contribute their share of Rs. 275 lakhs in the ratio of 37.5 percent, 37.5 percent and 25 percent.

Promotion of tourism during the tourism year

*153. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to attract tourists into the country during the tourism year;

(b) what is the number of tourists that visited the country during the year as compared to last years, year-wise;

(c) what has been the contribution of various State Governments to boost tourism; and

(d) whether any exceptional tourist resort has been deveolped during this year and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The steps taken by the Government to attract tourists into the country during the tourism year include improvement of tourist facilities, opening up of new areas, promoting fairs and festivals and other special events and wider publicity of tourist attractions in India.

(b) The number of tourists, including the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, who visited the country during the first ten months of the year 1991 as compared to the previous three years are as given below:

Year (Jan—Act.	Tourist Arrivals
1988	12,52,137
1989	13,77,332
1990	13,75,647
1991	13,00,106

(c) and (d) The State/Union Territory Governments have been involved in the creation of tourism infrastructural facilities for boosting tourism.

Implementation of new distribution policy of coal

*154. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has decided to set up a high level committee to implement the new distribution policy of coal for the large, medium and small consumers; and

(b) if so, by when the committee will bring out the proposals and implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The distribution policy for coal requires periodical reviews to adjust to the changing patterns of demand and supply in order to maximise consumer satisfaction. Recently, a paper on the subject has been prepared and the views of State Governments on the paper have been invited. A decision on the proposal will be taken keeping in view all the suggestions received in this regard. No high level committee has been set up in the Govt. as of now for implementing the policy.

(b) Does not arise.

National Highways in Madhya Pradesh

*155. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have approved 8 highways in the State of Madhya Pradesh to be declared as National Highways;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;